

Chapter 1427. Sign Regulations

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§ 1427-01. Purposes.

The purpose of this Chapter is to regulate the display of signs that pertain to businesses, activities and uses that take place on the same premises as where the sign is located. Signs that do not pertain to a business, activity and use that takes place on the same premises as where the sign is located are regulated by Chapter 895, Outdoor Advertising Signs, of the Cincinnati Municipal Code and by the applicable zoning district regulations of the Cincinnati Zoning Code. The regulations in this Chapter are intended to:

- (a) Provide property owners and occupants an opportunity for effective identification.
- (b) Maintain and enhance the quality of the City's appearance by limiting the number, area, location and design of signs permitted on all sites.
- (c) Protect Residential Districts from adverse impacts of excessive signs both from within residential districts and from surrounding districts.
- (d) Reduce sign clutter.
- (e) Ensure that signs are located and designed to maintain a safe and orderly pedestrian and vehicular environment.
- (f) Provide reasonable, yet appropriate conditions for identifying goods sold or produced or services rendered in all zoning districts.
- (g) Control the size, location and design of temporary and permanent signs so that the appearance of such signs will be aesthetically harmonious with their surroundings and will enhance the overall appearance of the built environment.
- (h) Eliminate any conflict that could be hazardous between commercial or identification signs and traffic control devices and signs.
- (i) Preserve and perpetuate uncluttered and natural views, significant architecture and cultural resources for the enjoyment and environmental enrichment of the citizens of the community and visitors.

§ 1427-03. Definitions.

The definitions contained herein are applied to this Chapter, Chapter 1411 Downtown Development District, and Chapter 1417 Institutional-Residential District.

§ 1427-03-A. Awning.

“Awning” means a shelter extending from the exterior wall of a building, covering a window or doorway and composed of non-rigid materials except for the supporting framework.

§ 1427-03-A1. Awning Sign.

“Awning Sign” means a sign painted on, attached to or supported by an awning.

§ 1427-03-B. Banner.

“Banner” means a non-rigid cloth, plastic, paper, or canvas sign typically related to a public demonstration or for the promotion of civic, welfare or charitable enterprises.

§ 1427-03-B1. Building Identification Sign.

“Building Identification Sign” means a sign intended to identify a building from beyond the site on which the sign is located.

§ 1427-03-C. Canopy Sign.

“Canopy Sign” means a sign attached to, in any manner, or made part of a permanent roof-like structure projecting beyond a building or extending along and projecting beyond the wall of the building, generally designed and constructed to provide protection from the weather.

§ 1427-03-C1. Changeable Copy Sign.

“Changeable Copy Sign” means a sign or portion thereof with characters, letters, or illustrations that can be changed or rearranged by mechanical, electronic or manual means.

§ 1427-03-C2. Commercial Sign.

“Commercial Sign” means a sign proposing or promoting a commercial transaction or directing attention to a business, commodity or service.

§ 1427-03-C3. Construction Sign.

“Construction Sign” means a nonpermanent sign identifying the persons, firms or businesses directly connected with an ongoing construction project.

§ 1427-03-E. Entry Feature Sign.

“Entry Feature Sign” means a permanent on-site ground or wall sign that serves to identify the name of a residential, commercial, or industrial subdivision, multi-family development, or a planned development district.

§ 1427-03-E1. External Illumination.

“External Illumination” means a source of illumination directed toward a sign so that a beam of light falls on the exterior surface of the sign and so arranged that no direct rays of light are projected from such artificial source into residences or streets.

§ 1427-03-F. Flag.

“Flag” means any fabric or bunting containing the officially recognized and adopted colors, patterns, or symbols used as the official symbol of a government or political entity.

§ 1427-03-F1. Flashing Sign.

“Flashing Sign” means a sign that changes in intensity, color and pattern of illumination at less than ten-second intervals when the sign is activated.

§ 1427-03-G. Ground Sign.

“Ground Sign” means a sign supported by structures or supports, permanently placed or anchored in the ground independent from any building or other structure. This term includes, but is not limited to, pole signs, freestanding signs, pylon signs and monument signs.

§ 1427-03-I. Identification Sign.

“Identification Sign” means a sign that serves to identify only the name, address, and occupation conducted on or in the premises, business, building or portion of a building on which it is located.

§ 1427-03-I1. Illegal On-Site Sign.

“Illegal on-site sign” means either:

- (a) An on-site sign erected without first complying with all ordinances and regulations in effect at the time of its construction and erection or use.
- (b) An on-site sign that was legally erected, but whose use has ceased, or the structure on which the display is placed has been abandoned by its owner, not maintained, or not used to identify or advertise an ongoing business after a period of more than 45 days. See § 1427-43.

§ 1427-03-I2. Instructional Sign.

“Instructional sign” means an on-site sign designed to be visible on-site or immediately adjacent to the site by pedestrians and motorists and that conveys instructions with respect to the premises on which it is maintained. Examples of such signs include a sign designating the entrance to or exit from a parking area, trespassing sign, a danger sign, entry or exit signs, directional signs, service entrance signs, and informational on-site signs.

§ 1427-03-I3. Internal Illumination.

“Internal illumination” means a source of illumination enclosed entirely within the sign and not directly visible from outside the sign.

§ 1427-03-M. Marquee Sign.

“Marquee Sign” means a sign attached to, in any manner, or made part of a permanent roof-like structure projecting beyond a building or extending along and projecting beyond the wall of the building, generally designed and constructed to provide protection from the weather.

§ 1427-03-M1. Mural.

“Mural” means a picture on an exterior surface of a structure. A mural is a sign only if it is related by language, logo, or pictorial depiction to the advertisement of any product, service, place, person or the identification of any business.

§ 1427-03-N. Noncommercial Sign.

“Noncommercial Sign” means a sign other than a commercial, instructional, entry feature, construction, identification, outdoor advertising, professional or real estate sign.

§ 1427-03-N1. Nonconforming Sign.

“Nonconforming Sign” means a sign that was lawfully erected or displayed under laws or ordinances in effect at the time of its installation, but that is not allowed under the current provisions of the Cincinnati Zoning Code.

§ 1427-03-O. Off-Site Sign.

“Off-Site Sign” means a sign directing attention to a business, commodity, service, person, or entertainment conducted, sold or offered elsewhere than on the premises where the sign is maintained, including an Outdoor Advertising Sign as defined and regulated in Chapter 895 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code.

§ 1427-03-O1. On-Site Sign.

“On-Site Sign” means a sign directing attention to a business, commodity, service, person, or entertainment conducted, sold or offered on the same premises as those on which the sign is maintained or expressing a view or opinion of an owner or occupant of the premises where the sign is displayed.

§ 1427-03-P. Portable Sign.

“Portable Sign” means a sign that is designed to be or capable of being moved or transported, and not permanently affixed or attached to any building, structure, or grounds.

§ 1427-03-P1. Professional Sign.

“Professional sign” means a sign indicating the name and occupation of a professional person or group of associated professional persons.

§ 1427-03-P2. Projecting Sign.

“Projecting Sign” means a sign that is wholly or partly dependant on a building for support or suspended from a pole attached to a structure and that projects more than 16 inches from the building at a perpendicular angle or approximately perpendicular angle. A Projecting Sign may not extend more than six feet from the wall to which it is attached.



FIGURE 1427-03-P1 Example of Projecting Sign

§ 1427-03-R. Real Estate Sign.

“Real Estate Sign” means a sign advertising the sale, rental, open house or lease of the structure or property on which it is installed.

§ 1427-03-R1. Roof Line.

“Roof Line” means the uppermost line or point of the façade or parapet of a flat roof structure, or the lower edge of an eve, gable or rake of a sloped roof structure.

§ 1427-03-R2. Roof Sign.

“Roof Sign” means a sign erected on or above the roofline of a building or structure.

§ 1427-03-S. Sandwich Board Sign.

“Sandwich Board Sign” means a sign with two hinged, connected, or double-faced boards or other material that can be temporarily placed on the ground and is customarily placed on a sidewalk to advertise changing sales, specials, or products sold in the adjacent establishment.

§ 1427-03-S1. Sign.

“Sign” means a writing or display, including a word or numeral; pictorial representation, including illustration or decoration; emblem, including device, symbol or trademark; flag, including banner, pennant, mural, or painting; or other figures of similar character that:

- (a) Is a structure or part thereof, or is attached to, painted on, or in other manner represented on a building or other structure, and
- (b) Is used to announce, direct attention to, or advertise, and
- (c) Is visible from outside a building.

§ 1427-03-S2. Sign Face Area.

"Sign Face Area" means the area of the smallest rectangle that encloses all of the letters, figures or symbols that comprise the sign message, including any background forming an integral part of the display, but not including any structure supporting the sign, unless the support structure forms a part of the message being displayed.

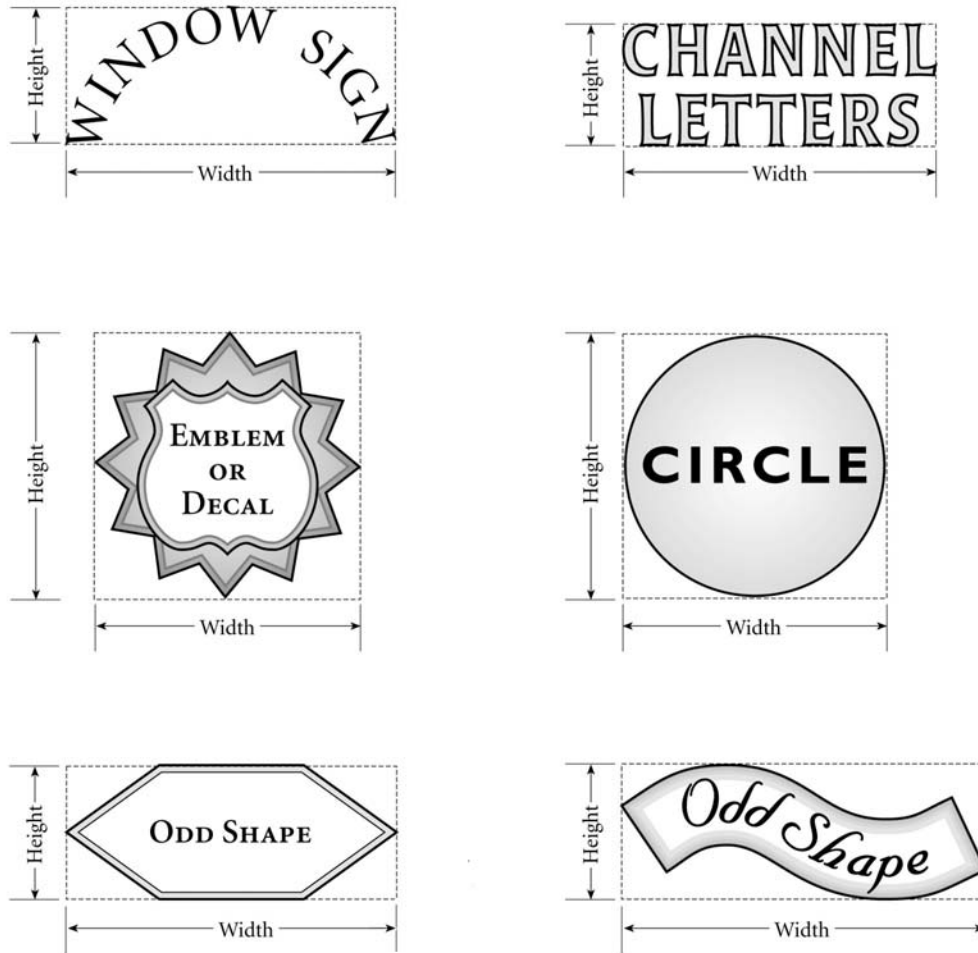


FIGURE 1427-03-S2 Sign Face Area

§ 1427-03-S3. Sign Height.

"Sign Height" means the distance between the highest point of the sign face or sign structure and the finished grade directly below it. The height may not be artificially increased by the use of mounding.

§ 1427-03-S4. Site.

"Site" means any tract or tracts of land that comprise a single, integrated development or use of land.

§ 1427-03-T. Temporary Sign.

"Temporary Sign" means a sign or advertising display designed, intended, or installed for a short period of time as regulated in this chapter (See §1427-13 Temporary Signs). This excludes exempt signs as defined in §1427-11.

§ 1427-03-W. Wall Sign.

"Wall Sign" means a sign painted on or fastened to the wall of a building or structure in a plane parallel or approximately parallel to the plane of said wall and affixed in such a manner that the wall becomes the supporting structure for or forms the background surface of the sign and that does not project more than 16 inches from such building or structure.

§ 1427-03-W1. Window Sign.

"Window Sign" means a sign painted on or affixed to a windowpane or glass door or displayed on the inside of the building or structure that is within two feet of a windowpane or glass door and is visible from a public right-of-way or adjacent property.

§ 1427-05. Applicability.

The regulations set forth in this Chapter apply to all on-site signs in all districts, except in the DD District and in the IR District, where the sign regulations set forth in Chapter 1411, Downtown Development District, and Chapter 1417, Institutional-Residential District, apply where inconsistent with the regulations set forth in this Chapter.

A sign regulated by this Chapter may not be erected or displayed unless a building permit is obtained or the sign is listed as an exempt sign in §1427-11.

Every sign erected, constructed, painted or maintained for which a permit is issued under these regulations, must be plainly marked with the name of the person erecting, painting, and / or maintaining such sign, and must have affixed the permit number issued for said sign. Except for pre-existing non-conforming signs, the absence of a reference to the permit number is prima facie evidence that the sign or advertising structure is being operated in violation of this Zoning Code.

§ 1427-07. Signs in the Public Right-of-Way

A sign in or above any public right-of-way is prohibited unless displayed by a governmental entity or pursuant to a revocable street privilege.

§ 1427-09. Prohibited Sign Types, Locations, and Message.

The following signs, sign types, sign locations, and sign messages are prohibited:

- (a) In any public park or on any public property without the permission of the City of Cincinnati.
- (b) On any traffic control sign, utility pole, street sign, or tree.
- (c) In any location where the view of approaching or intersecting traffic would be obstructed. A sign may not be located so as to interfere with the safe movement of vehicles or pedestrians entering, leaving, or crossing a public right-of-way.
- (d) A sign affixed to a vehicle or trailer, unless the vehicle or trailer is used in ordinary course of business for the transportation of persons or materials and not for the primary purpose of advertising.
- (e) On any property without prior authorization granted by the property owner on which any sign is displayed.
- (f) Moving, flashing or animated signs, balloons, gas inflated signs or similar inflated signs, portable signs, searchlights, streamers, spinners, flags (other than those specifically permitted herein), or any other similar devices.
- (g) Roof Signs.
- (h) Sandwich Board Signs.

§ 1427-11. Exempt Signs.

The following signs are exempt from the permit requirements of this Chapter and are permitted in any zoning district:

- (a) Any on-site temporary window sign, except non-commercial signs, not exceeding 10 percent of the area of any single window in which it is placed or six square feet, whichever is less. An on-site temporary window sign may be installed for a period not to exceed 30 days for a maximum of four times for every calendar year with a minimum of 30 days between installations. An on-site temporary window sign is limited to the ground or first floor only, unless displayed by a use located in the second or higher stories of a building and has no first floor occupancy.
- (b) Street address numbers displayed in accordance with § 723-65, Displaying House Numbers, of the Cincinnati Municipal Code.
- (c) Public information, identification, special event and directional signs erected by a public agency.
- (d) Governmental Signs.

- (e) Notices posted by a public utility or other quasi-public agent in the performance of a public duty.
- (f) City entry, community or district identification signs not exceeding 20 square feet in area and eight feet in height.
- (g) Names of buildings, dates of erection, commemorative tablets and the like, when carved into stone, concrete or similar material or made of bronze, aluminum or other permanent type material.
- (h) Credit card, trading stamp, or trade association signs not exceeding one-half square foot each and not exceeding ten per establishment.
- (i) Flags not exceeding 72 square feet each. A flag may be displayed on a pole not exceeding 35 feet in height or the height of the principal structure on the site, whichever is less. No more than 4 flags or flagpoles are permitted per site.
- (j) One Identification Sign per dwelling unit or per business, not exceeding one square foot each.
- (k) Instructional On-Site Signs provided that such signs are limited to a maximum of six square feet in area. If constructed as a ground mounted sign the maximum height is four feet.
- (l) Temporary Open House Signs provided that they are limited in number to a maximum of four per event, limited in size to a maximum of 12 square feet in area and located at least 12 feet from the edge of the street pavement. An open house sign may only be installed the day before the open house and must be removed the same day of the open house after its conclusion. In no case shall an open house sign be installed for more than 48 continuous hours.
- (m) Real Estate Sign.
 - (1) For all zoning districts, only one such sign is allowed per site per street frontage, and is limited in size to a maximum total sign face area of 24 square feet and 12 square feet for any single sign face.
 - (2) The sign may be a ground sign, a window sign, or a wall sign.
 - (3) All signs must be removed within 14 days after the sale, lease, or rental has occurred. These signs may only be installed on the property to which they refer.
- (n) Noncommercial Signs as regulated by § 1427-15.

§ 1427-13. Temporary Signs.

A temporary sign is permitted in any zoning district, requires obtaining a permit, may only be externally illuminated, and may include:

- (a) A Temporary Construction Sign provided that such a sign is limited in size to a maximum total sign face area of 64 square feet and 32 square feet for any single sign face. Each site may only have one sign. Construction signs cannot be installed prior to the commencement of construction on the site and must be removed within 24 hours of completion of construction. Construction signs may be erected as wall or ground signs.
- (b) Decorations, banners, and signs for public demonstrations, special events, or for the temporary promotion of civic, welfare or charitable enterprises or events. A banner may not exceed 12 feet in any of its dimensions. These signs may be installed for a period not to exceed 30 days with a minimum of 30 days between installation periods for a maximum of four times for every calendar year.
- (c) Residential subdivisions with multiple lots for sale, lease, or rent may have one temporary ground mounted sign per perimeter street frontage around the subdivision in addition to signs allowed under §1427-11-(m) Real Estate Sign. The additional residential subdivision sign may not exceed 250 square feet in area or ten square feet for every lot offered, whichever is less. This sign must be at least 50 feet from a perimeter street or right-of-way surrounding the subdivision. No two signs, if allowed, may be closer than 200 feet to each other. The sign must be removed when 75% of the lots in the subdivision have received a certificate of occupancy.
- (d) One on-site commercial sign per site, installed only as a temporary ground sign, not exceeding 16 square feet per sign face, with a maximum of two sign faces and a maximum sign height of 5 feet. Such sign may be installed for a period not to exceed 30 days for a maximum of four times for every calendar year with a minimum of 30 days between installations.

§ 1427-15. Noncommercial Signs.

Irrespective of any other regulations in this code, except 1427-09 Prohibited Sign Types, Locations and Messages, one or more noncommercial signs may be displayed as ground, window or wall signs in any zone district on each street frontage with a maximum total sign face area for all sign faces visible from any point along the street frontage of 36 square feet. Where a sign has two or more display faces, the area of all faces of the sign shall be included in determining the area of the sign, unless the two faces are joined back to back, are parallel to each other, are of equal size and are not more than 16 inches apart, in which case one face shall be included in determining the area of the sign.

§ 1427-17. Off-Site Signs.

Off-Site Signs are permitted only in the CC-M, CC-A, CG-A, MG, and ME zoning districts and must be displayed in compliance with Chapter 895, Outdoor Advertising Signs, of the Cincinnati Municipal Code.

§ 1427-19. Murals.

One mural on only one wall of a building or structure is permitted.

§ 1427-21. Maximum Total Sign Area.

In determining compliance with the maximum total sign area (See §1427-35-(a), §1427-37-(a), and §1427-39-(a)), the following rules apply:

- (a) For a site with frontage on only one street, the linear feet of frontage along the street shall be counted for purposes of determining the maximum allowable sign area.
- (b) For a site with frontage on more than one street, the maximum total sign area permitted on that site shall be the sum of the linear feet of frontage along all streets. However, the total sign surface area that is oriented toward a particular street may not exceed the portion of the site's total sign surface area allocation that is derived from frontage on that particular street.
- (c) The maximum total sign area may be allocated among the permitted signs in each district, provided that each sign conforms to the applicable regulations of the district in which the sign is located and the applicable regulations for the type of sign.
- (d) In no case may the total area of all signs on a particular site exceed the maximum total sign area given for a site in a particular zoning district.
- (e) Signs which are exempt from permit requirements (§1427-11 Exempt Signs), listed as temporary signs (§1427-13 Temporary Signs) and non-commercial signs (§1427-15 Non-commercial Signs) do not count against the maximum total sign area for a site in a particular zoning district.

§ 1427-23. Wall Sign Regulations.

The following regulations apply to wall signs (See §1427-03-W), unless more specifically regulated elsewhere in this Chapter or by the District regulations applicable to the zoning district in which the sign is located:

- (a) A wall sign may not project above a roofline.
- (b) A wall sign may not project more than 16 inches from the face of the structure or building to which it is attached.

- (c) A wall sign may not be installed more than 20 feet above grade at the top of the sign. Refer to Figure 1427-23-A.
- (d) Each individual wall sign face counts against the maximum total sign area (See §1427-21) permitted for all signs on a site and against the total area permitted for a wall sign as allowed in each district.

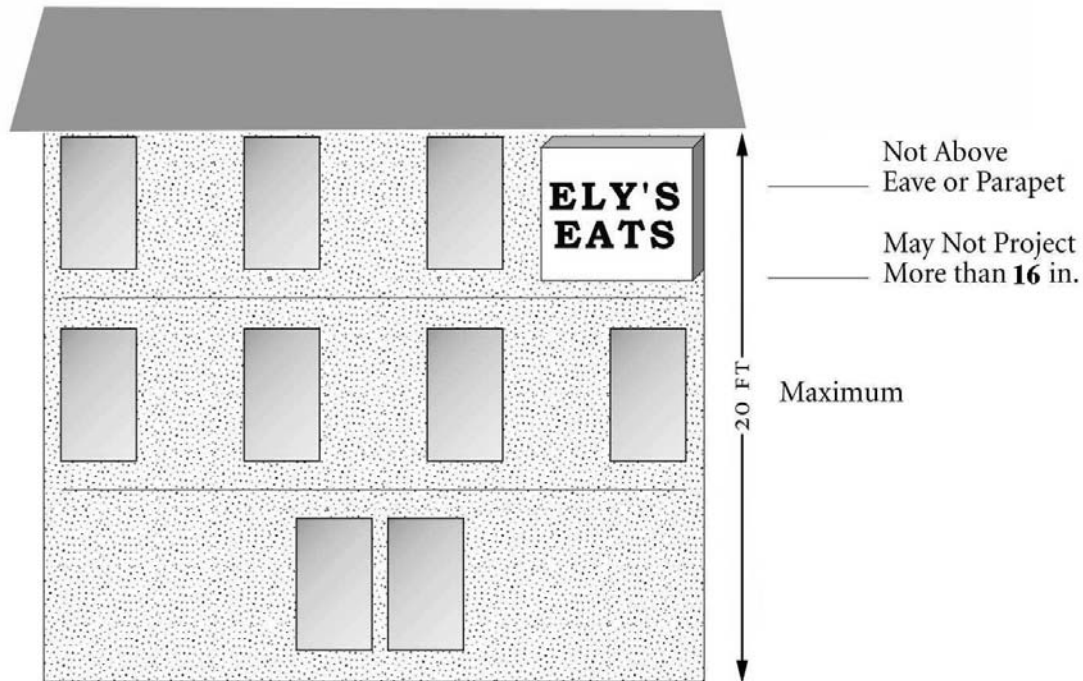


FIGURE 1427-23-A Wall Sign



FIGURE 1427-23-B Examples of Wall Signs

§ 1427-25. Ground Sign Regulations.

The following regulations apply to ground signs (See §1427-03-G), unless more specifically regulated elsewhere in this Chapter or by the District regulations applicable to the zoning district in which the sign is located:

- (a) A ground sign may not be closer to a lot line or right-of-way than one-half the sign height. Refer to Figure 1427-25-A.
- (b) Only one ground sign per site is permitted.
- (c) Each individual ground sign face counts against the maximum total sign area (See §1427-21) permitted for all signs on a site and against the total area permitted for a ground sign as allowed in each district.
- (d) A ground sign may only be located along or oriented toward a street frontage.

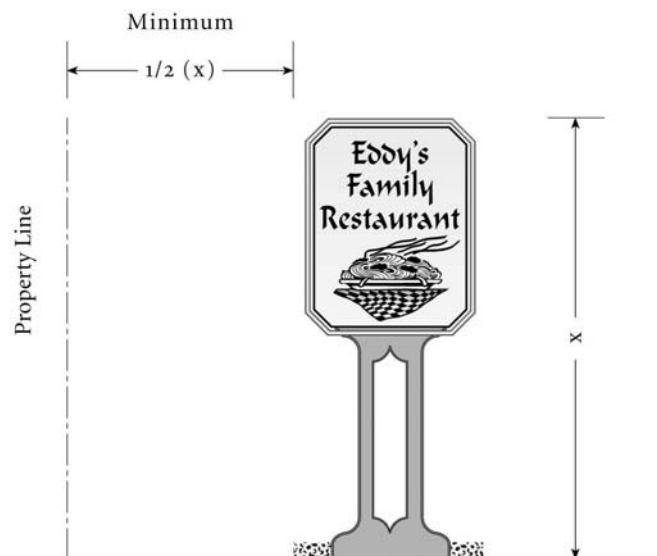


FIGURE 1427-25-A Ground Signs





FIGURE 1427-25-B Examples of Ground Signs

§ 1427-27. Projecting Sign Regulations.

The following regulations apply to projecting signs (See § 1427-03-P2), unless more specifically regulated elsewhere in this Chapter or by the District regulations applicable to the zoning district in which the sign is located:

- (a) A projecting sign must be at least ten feet above the surface over which it projects, or at least 16 feet above a private vehicular passageway.
- (b) A projecting sign may not be installed either above the second floor windowsill line; above the roofline of a building or structure, or have a sign height more than 20 feet above the average natural grade at the sign location, whichever is less.
- (c) A projecting sign may not be wider than three and one-half feet nor exceed eight feet in height.
- (d) A projecting sign must be setback at least five feet from an interior side lot line or a division wall between different establishments.
- (e) A projecting sign may not project above a roofline. Refer to Figure 1427-27-A.
- (f) A projecting sign that projects into the right-of-way requires a revocable street privilege.
- (g) Projecting signs may only be located along or oriented toward a street frontage.

- (h) Each individual projecting sign face counts against the maximum total sign area (See § 1427-21) permitted for all signs on a site and against the total area permitted for a projecting sign as allowed in each district.
- (i) A projecting sign must project more than 16 inches from the building or structure to which it is attached at a perpendicular angle or approximately perpendicular angle.
- (j) A projecting sign may not extend more than six feet from the wall to which it is attached.

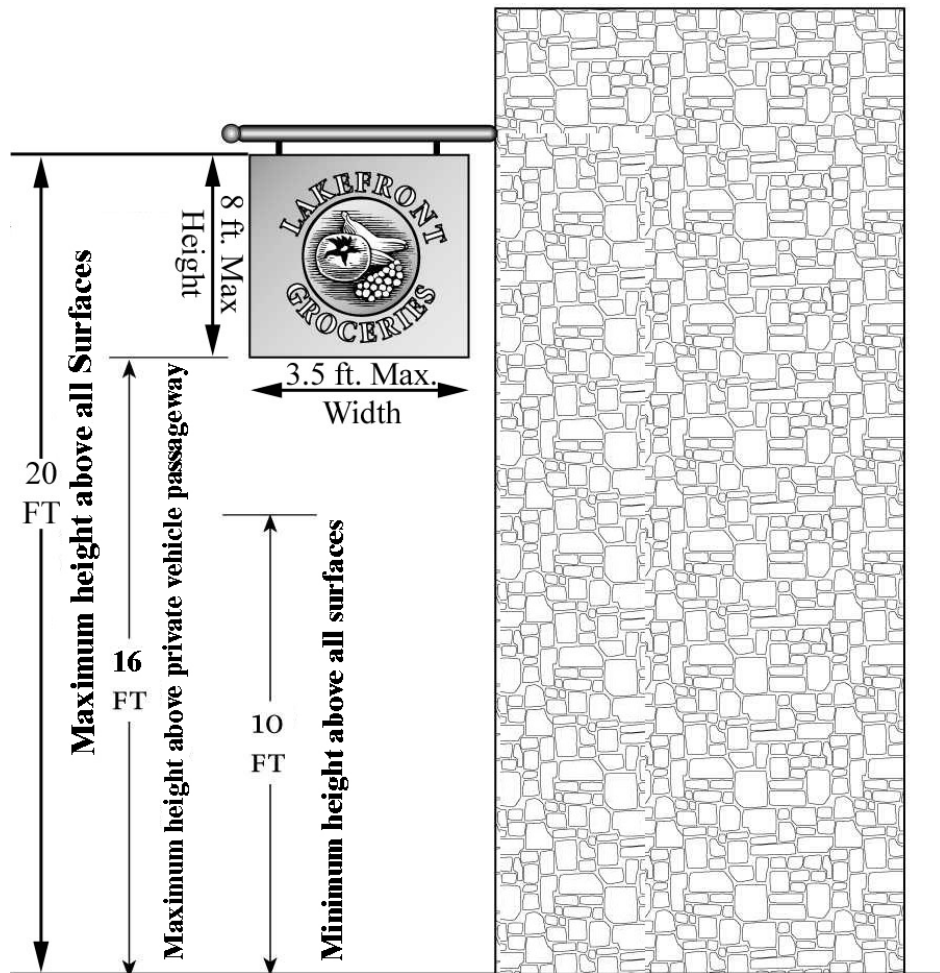


FIGURE 1427-27-A Projecting Signs



FIGURE 1427-27-B Examples of Projecting Signs

§ 1427-29. Window Sign Regulations.

The following regulations apply to window signs (See § 1427-03-W1), unless more specifically regulated elsewhere in this Chapter or by the District regulations applicable to the zoning district in which the sign is located:

- (a) A window sign may not cover more than 20 percent of the total area of the particular window to which it is attached or related.
- (b) A window sign shall be limited to the ground floor or first floor windows only, unless a use is located in the second or higher stories of a building and has no first floor occupancy.
- (c) Each individual window sign face counts against the maximum total sign area (See § 1427-21) permitted for all signs on a site and against the total area permitted for a window sign as allowed in each district.

§ 1427-31. Signs in Historic Districts or on Landmarks

Signs in historic districts or on historic landmarks require obtaining a Certificate of Appropriateness and shall be in conformance with any applicable guidelines for the district. See Chapter 1435 Historic Landmarks and Districts.

§ 1427-33. Signs Permitted in Any District.

The following signs are permitted in all districts where the use the sign is associated with is also permitted, limited, or conditional, subject to all other limitations, conditions, or prohibitions in this chapter.

	Entry Feature Sign	Identification Sign for Non-Residential Uses	Changeable Copy Sign – for Public and Semi-Public Uses	Home Occupation Sign
Sign Types Permitted	Ground or Wall only	Ground or Wall only	Ground or Wall only	Wall or Window only
Maximum Area Per Sign Face	1 square foot per dwelling unit or 1 square foot per commercial tenant up to 25 square feet	24 square feet for public and semi-public uses; 12 square feet for all other non-residential uses	20 square feet	2 square feet
Maximum Number of Sign Faces	1	2	2	1
Maximum Number of Signs	One sign for every intersection between a subdivision or planned development interior street and a pre-existing perimeter street or along the street frontage of a multi-family development.	One per building	One per site	One per dwelling unit that has an existing and permitted home occupation use
Maximum Sign Height	6 feet	6 feet	6 feet	The ground or first floor only unless a use is located in the second floor or higher of a building and has no first floor occupancy.
Maximum Sign Width:	12 feet	12 feet	10 feet	None
Minimum Sign Setback	Twice the proposed sign height for a ground sign. None for a wall sign.	Twice the proposed sign height for a ground sign. None for a wall sign.	Twice the proposed sign height for a ground sign. None for a wall sign.	None
Illumination Permitted	External Only	External Only	External or Internal	None



FIGURE 1427-33 Examples of Entry Feature Signs

§ 1427-35. Sign Standards for the O Districts.

Signs in the O District must comply with the following:

- (a) **Maximum Total Sign Area.** (See § 1427-21)
 - (1) *OL District:* 0.75 square feet for every linear foot of lot frontage on a street per site.
 - (2) *OG District:* 1.5 square feet for every linear foot of lot frontage on a street per site.
 - (3) *Changeable Copy Signs* are permitted in the OL and OG Districts. They may be constructed as ground, wall, marquee, or canopy signs and are subject to all other size regulations for the particular sign type selected. Only one changeable copy sign per site is permitted. A Changeable Copy Sign may not be changed or rearranged at less than a ten second interval and may not include streaming, animating, or flashing text or images.
 - (4) If a site has more than one business occupant, the owner of the property shall determine how the sign area is to be allocated to the occupants. For all buildings, complexes, or sites designed and/or intended for multi-tenant usage, a total sign plan conforming to all the requirements of this Code must be submitted to the Buildings and Inspections Department for review and approval before any sign permit for the complex or an individual tenant will be issued.

For Signs in the **OL District** the following regulations apply:

OL District	Ground Signs	Window Signs	Projecting Signs	Wall Signs	Marquee or Canopy Signs	Awning Signs
Permitted Signs	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, if no marquee or canopy sign	Yes, if no wall sign	Yes
Max. # of Signs	1 per site	Unlimited	N/A	1 per street frontage	1 per building	Unlimited
Max. Sign Area	36 sq. ft. per sign face	See §1427-29	N/A	36 sq. ft.	36 sq. ft.	12 sq. ft.
Max. # of Sign Faces Permitted	2	1	N/A	1	1	1
Max. Sign Height	6 ft.	See §1427-29	N/A	10 ft. above grade. See §1427-23	Not more than 2 ft. above marquee or canopy	Letters may not be higher than 12 inches
Max. Sign Width	6 ft.	Horizontal limits of the window	N/A	Horizontal limits of the wall	Horizontal limits of the marquee or canopy	Horizontal limits of the awning
Min. Setback from any lot line	3 ft	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Permitted Illumination	External only	External only	N/A	External only	External only	None

For Signs in the **OG District** the following regulations apply:

OG District	Ground Signs	Window Signs	Projecting Signs	Wall Signs	Marquee or Canopy Signs	Awning Signs
Permitted Signs	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, if no marquee or canopy sign	Yes, if no wall sign	Yes
Max. # of Signs	1 per site	Unlimited	N/A	1 per street frontage	1 per building	Unlimited
Max. Sign Area	72 sq. ft. per sign face	See §1427-29	N/A	72 sq. ft.	72 sq. ft.	12 sq. ft.
Max. # of Sign Faces Permitted	2	1	N/A	1	1	1
Max. Sign Height	10 ft.	See §1427-29	N/A	See §1427-23	Not more than 2 ft. above marquee or canopy	Letters may not be higher than 12 inches
Max. Sign Width	10 ft.	Horizontal limits of the window	N/A	Horizontal limits of the wall	Horizontal limits of the marquee or canopy	Horizontal limits of the awning
Min. Setback from any lot line	3 ft. or one-half the height of the sign, whichever is greater	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Permitted Illumination	External or internal	External only	N/A	External or internal	External or internal	None

§ 1427-37. Signs Standards for the C Districts.

Signs in the C District must comply with the following:

- (a) **Maximum Total Sign Area.** The maximum sign area allowed is as follows: (See § 1427-21)
 - (1) *CN-P and CC-P Districts:* One square foot for every linear foot of lot frontage on a street per site.
 - (2) *CN-M and CC-M Districts:* 1.5 square feet for every linear foot of lot frontage on a street per site.
 - (3) *CC-A and CG-A Districts:* Two square feet for every linear foot of lot frontage on a street per site.
 - (4) *Changeable Copy Signs* are permitted in the CN-M, CC-M, CC-A, and CG-A Districts. They may be constructed as ground, wall,

marquee, or canopy signs and are subject to all other size regulations for the particular sign type selected. Only one changeable copy sign per site is permitted. A Changeable Copy Sign may not be changed or rearranged at less than a ten second interval and may not include streaming, animating, or flashing text or images.

- (5) If a site has more than one business occupant, the owner of the property shall determine how the sign area is to be allocated to the occupants. For all buildings, complexes, or sites designed and/or intended for multi-tenant usage, a total sign plan conforming to all the requirements of this Code must be submitted to the Buildings and Inspections Department for review and approval before any sign permit for the complex or an individual tenant will be issued.

For Signs in the **CN-P & CC-P Districts**, the following regulations apply:

CN-P & CC-P District	Ground Signs	Window Signs	Projecting Signs	Wall Signs	Marquee or Canopy Signs	Awning Signs
Permitted Signs	No	Yes	Yes, if no wall, marquee, or canopy sign	Yes, if no projecting, marquee, or canopy sign	Yes, if no projecting or wall sign	Yes
Max. # of Signs	N/A	Unlimited	1 per street frontage	1 per street frontage	1 per building	Unlimited
Max. Sign Area	N/A	See §1427-29	28 sq. ft. per sign face	See §1427-37-(a)(1)	See §1427-37-(a)(1)	12 sq. ft.
Max. # of Sign Faces Permitted	N/A	1	2	1	1	1
Max. Sign Height	N/A.	See §1427-29	See §1427-27	See §1427-23	Not more than 2 ft. above marquee or canopy	Letters may not be higher than 12 inches
Max. Sign Width	N/A	Horizontal limits of the window	See §1427-27	Horizontal limits of the wall	Horizontal limits of the marquee or canopy	Horizontal limits of the awning
Min. Setback from any lot line	N/A	N/A	See §1427-27	N/A	N/A	N/A
Permitted Illumination	N/A	External or Internal	External or Internal	External or Internal	External or Internal	None

For Signs in the **CN-M & CC-M Districts**, the following regulations apply:

CN-M & CC-M District	Ground Signs	Window Signs	Projecting Signs	Wall Signs	Marquee or Canopy Signs	Awning Signs
Permitted	Yes	Yes	Yes, if no	Yes, if no	Yes, if no	Yes

Signs			wall, marquee, or canopy sign	projecting, marquee, or canopy sign	wall or projecting sign	
Max. # of Signs	1 per site	Unlimited	1 per street frontage	1 per street frontage	1 per building	Unlimited
Max. Sign Area	36 sq. ft. per sign face	See §1427-29	28 sq. ft. per sign face	72 sq. ft.	72 sq. ft.	12 sq. ft.
Max. # of Sign Faces Permitted	2	1	2	1	1	1
Max. Sign Height	10 ft.	See §1427-29	See §1427-27	25 ft.	Not more than 2 ft. above marquee or canopy	Letters may not be higher than 12 inches
Max. Sign Width	None	Horizontal limits of the window	See §1427-27	Horizontal limits of the wall	Horizontal limits of the marquee or canopy	Horizontal limits of the awning
Min. Setback from any lot line	One-half the height of the sign	N/A	See §1427-27	N/A	N/A	N/A
Permitted Illumination	External or Internal	External or Internal	External or Internal	External or Internal	External or Internal	None

For Signs in the **CC-A & CG-A Districts**, the following regulations apply:

CC-A & CG-A District	Ground Signs	Window Signs	Projecting Signs	Wall Signs	Marquee or Canopy Signs	Awning Signs
Permitted Signs	Yes	Yes	Yes, if no wall, marquee or canopy sign	Yes, if no projecting, marquee, or canopy sign	Yes, if no wall or projecting sign	Yes
Max. # of Signs	1 per site	Unlimited	1 per street frontage	1 per street frontage	1 per building	Unlimited
Max. Sign Area	72 sq. ft. per sign face	See §1427-29	28 sq. ft. per sign face	144 sq. ft.	144 sq. ft.	12 sq. ft.
Max. # of Sign Faces Permitted	2	1	2	1	1	1
Max. Sign Height	15 ft. unless adjacent to and oriented toward an Interstate then 30 ft.	See §1427-29	See §1427-27	30 ft.	Not more than 2 ft. above marquee or canopy	Letters may not be higher than 12 inches
Max. Sign Width	10 ft.	Horizontal limits of the window	See §1427-27	Horizontal limits of the wall	Horizontal limits of the marquee or canopy	Horizontal limits of the awning
Min. Setback from any lot line	One-half the height of the sign	N/A	See §1427-27	N/A	N/A	N/A
Permitted Illumination	External or Internal	External or Internal	External or Internal	External or Internal	External or Internal	None

§ 1427-39. Sign Standards for the M, RF-R, RF-C and RF-M Districts.

Signs in the M, RF-R, RF-C and RF-M Districts must comply with the following:

- (a) **Maximum Total Sign Area.** Two square feet for every linear foot of lot frontage on a street per site. (See § 1427-21).
- (b) **Changeable Copy Signs are permitted in the M, RF-R, RF-C and RF-M Districts.** They may be constructed as ground or wall signs and are subject to all other size regulations for the particular sign type selected. Only one changeable copy sign per site is permitted. A Changeable Copy Sign may not be changed or rearranged at less than a ten second interval and may not include streaming, animating, or flashing text or images.

- (c) If a site has more than one business occupant, the owner of the property shall determine how the sign area is to be allocated to the occupants. For all buildings, complexes, or sites designed and/or intended for multi-tenant usage, a total sign plan conforming to all the requirements of this Code must be submitted to the Buildings and Inspections Department for review and approval before any sign permit for the complex or an individual tenant will be issued.

For Signs in the **M, RF-R, RF-C & RF-M Districts**, the following regulations apply:

M, RF-C & RF-M District	Ground Signs	Window Signs	Projecting Signs	Wall Signs	Marquee or Canopy Signs	Awning Signs
Permitted Signs	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Max. # of Signs	1 per site	N/A	N/A	1 per street frontage	N/A	N/A
Max. Sign Area	72 sq. ft. per sign face	N/A	N/A	144 sq.ft.	N/A	N/A
Max. # of Sign Faces Permitted	2	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Max. Sign Height	15 ft.	N/A	N/A	30 ft.	N/A	N/A
Max. Sign Width	10 ft.	N/A	N/A	Horizontal limits of the wall	N/A	N/A
Min. Setback from any lot line	One-half the height of the sign	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Permitted Illumination	External or Internal	N/A	N/A	External or Internal	N/A	N/A

§ 1427-41. Removal of Illegal Signs.

An owner of property where an illegal sign is displayed has the duty to remove all illegal signs. If the Director of Buildings and Inspections finds an illegal sign, the Director has the duty to issue an order for the sign to be removed within 15 days. The Director has the duty to issue a notice of civil violation to an owner who fails to comply with an order to remove an illegal sign. If the property owner is found guilty of failing to comply with an order to remove an illegal sign, the Director has the duty to give notice to the owner that the sign is a public nuisance and to cause the illegal signs to be removed pursuant to § 1101-57, Demolition of Buildings and Removal of Illegal Signs by the Director of Buildings and Inspections, of the Cincinnati Building Code.

§ 1427-43. Nonconforming Signs.

A nonconforming sign must be brought into conformity with the provisions of the Cincinnati Zoning Code then in effect:

- (a) If the principal use of the property is changed, or
- (b) The sign is structurally altered, rebuilt, enlarged, extended, or relocated; provided, however, the repainting or refacing of an existing nonconforming sign is not considered an alteration within the meaning of this section.

§ 1427-45. Maintenance, Abandonment and Removal.

All signs must be maintained in good repair and appearance. An on-premise sign advertising an activity, business, service or product must be removed or the sign face replaced with a blank face within 45 days of the activity, business, or service promoted by the sign being discontinued on the premises where the sign is displayed; if the use is not reestablished or a new use is not established within two years and a replacement sign face conforming to this Chapter installed, then the entire sign structure and mounting hardware must be removed.

§ 1427-47. Penalties.

See Chapter 1451. Enforcement.